

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTO 06433 262311Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /061 W
-----029279 272259Z /66
R 262215Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2442

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 6433

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, DR
SUBJECT: BALAGUER ANSWERS OPPOSITION CRITICISM

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 6344

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER LAST NIGHT GENTLY, BUT DIRECTLY,
ADVISED THE DOMINICAN MILITARY AND POLICE TO STAY OUT OF
THE PRE-ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNING NOW IN FULL SWING HERE.

2. THE ADMONITION TO THE MILITARY TO REMAIN ABSOLUTELY
APOLITICAL AS THE MAY 16 ELECTIONS APPROACH WAS ISSUED BY
THE NATIONAL PALACE IN THE FORM OF A Q AND A INTERVIEW
WITH A LOCAL JOURNALIST. THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED OCT
26 REPRESENTS BALAGUER'S FIRST PUBLIC REACTION TO THE MAIN
OPPOSITIIN PARTY'S STRIDENT CRITICISM OF THE DOMINICAN
MILITARY'S INCREASINGLY OPEN INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL
ACTIVITY.

3. BALAGUER TOOK HEAD ON CHARGES WHICH HAVE EMANATED
DAILY IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS FROM THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO
DOMINICANO (PRD) THAT THE HIGHEST ARMY AND POLICE OFFICERS
ARE OPENLY WORKING FOR BALAGUER'S REELECTION. THESE
CHARGES, OUTLINED BY THE PRD LEADERSHIP TO ASSISTANT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTO 06433 262311Z

SECRETARY TODMAN OCTOBER 18 (REFTEL), MOST RECENTLY HAVE
IDENTIFIED POLICE CHIEF NEIT NIVAR SEIJAS AND SECRETARY
OF THE ARMED FORCES, JUAN RENE BEAUCHAMP JAVIER, AS
PRINCIPAL AGENTS IN THE REELECTION EFFORT.

4. BALAGUER'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAS "RECOMMENDED" TOTAL
ABSTENTION FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITY TO THE DOMINICAN MILITARY

WAS CAST IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INCLUDE COURTING OF THE MILITARY BY THE PRD LEADERSHIP, AS WELL AS OTHER CONTENDING ELECTORAL MOVEMENTS.

5. BALAGUER SAID HE IS ADVISING THE MILITARY TO STAY ON THE POLITICAL SIDELINES TO DENY THE OPPOSITION ANY PRETEXT FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT "SUPPOSED VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION", WHICH REQUIRED THE MILITARY TO STAY OUT OF POLITICAL LIFE.

6. ASKED IN THE INTERVIEW TO COMMENT ON CHARGES THAT THE MILITARY IS PROMOTING HIS CANDIDACY, BALAGUER SAID HE BELIEVES ANY SUCH INTERVENTIONS THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ARE THE WORK OF THE OPPOSITION ITSELF. WERE IT NOT FOR THE DAILY STATEMENTS AND BROADCASTS LAUNCHED BY THE OPPOSITION CLAIMING MILITARY INTERVENTION ON HIS BEHALF, HE SAID, HE IS CONFIDENT THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT FROM THE TOP DOWN WOULD REMAIN "IN THE BARRACKS" IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS. THE OPPOSITION, HE SAID, WOULD CONTRIBUTE IN GREAT MEASURE TO FACILITATE THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO INSURE OPEN AND FREE ELECTIONS IF IT INVOLVED ITSELF LESS IN AREAS RESERVED BY THE CONSTITUTION TO THE ARMED FORCES THEMSELVES.

7. IN A CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH, BALAGUER WARNS THAT "THE ROAD BEING OPENED BY CONTACTS BETWEEN THE OPPOSITION AND THE MILITARY CAN ONLY LEAD TO CONSTITUTIONAL CHAOS, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANTO 06433 262311Z

IN TURN LEADS INEVITABLY TO DE FACTO SITUATIONS, WITH ALL THEIR CONSEQUENCES SUCH AS THE LOSS OF PUBLIC LIBERTIES, DETERIORATION OF THE ECONOMY OF THE NATION, DISCREDIT OF THE COUNTRY ABROAD AND DEFERRING FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE THE OBJECTIVE WHICH ALL GOOD DOMINICANS SUPPORT, WHICH IS A GROWING INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF DOMINICAN LIFE".

8. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW BY AIRGRAM.

COMMENT: WHILE TELLING THE MILITARY TO KEEP OUT OF POLITICS, BALAGUER'S ADMONITION CLEARLY SEEKS TO LAY UPON OPPOSITION LEADERS AT LEAST SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCREASINGLY OPEN POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS OF THE MILITARY GENERALS. HOWEVER, AS LONG AS THE COUNTRY'S MOST PROMINENT MILITARY OFFICERS, THEIR ASSOCIATES AND THEIR SUBORDINATES CONTINUE TO APPEAR PUBLICLY AT THE SIDE OF THE PRESIDENT AND WHILE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WORK BEHIND THE SCENES FOR BALAGUER'S REELECTION, THE PARTISANSHIP OF THE MILITARY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE EVIDENT. AT THE SAME TIME, HIS MESSAGE TO THE MILITARY IS ALSO THERE FOR ALL TO SEE: STAND TO ONE SIDE. THEY WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY BY THE OPPOSITION AND OTHER SECTORS TO SEE IF THEY HEED

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RECOMMENDATION.

9. TIMING OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS WAS VERY
LIKELY DESIGNED TO CUT SOME OF THE GROUND OUT FROM
UNDER THE PRD-SPONSORED "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST"
MEETING HERE OCTOBER 28-30.
HURWITCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTO06433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770395-0689
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771020/aaaaaqyd.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4e822227-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANTO DOMINGO 6344
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 788462
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BALAGUER ANSWERS OPPOSITION CRITICISM
TAGS: PINT, DR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e822227-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009